

REMARKS

Applicant has filed replacement drawings under separate cover on even date herewith.

Claims 11-25 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 11, 13, 17, and 21-23 are currently amended, Claim 12 is canceled without prejudice, and Claims 14-16, 18-20, and 24-25 remain unchanged.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 11, 14-16 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6, 398, 523 to Hur et al. (Hur '523). Claims 11-16, 19-22 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hur '523 in view of EP Patent No. EP 0509660 to Terauchi (Terauchi '660).

The drawings stand under objection because reference numeral 9 indicating a cylinder is not included. By the present amendment, the Applicant has included a substitute drawing sheet with the reference numeral 9 appearing in Figure 2. The applicant respectfully requests entry of the present replacement sheet and requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The claims are also objected to because of an informality regarding the articles "an" and "a" which has been cured by the present amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

The claims also stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being assertedly indefinite. By the present amendment, the Applicant has

amended the identified claims in a manner suggested by the Examiner in order to overcome the § 112, second paragraph rejections. It is therefore respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's granting a personal interview with the Applicant's representatives on November 13, 2007 wherein an agreement was reached. According to the interview summary, the Applicant agreed to further define the sound restrictor element. As will be seen, the sound restrictor element appears in claims 11 and 21, *inter alia* and has been amended in a matter to define over both the Hur '523 reference and the Terauchi '660 reference.

Independent Claim 11 recites a linear compressor unit with an electromagnetic alternating field surrounding at least a portion of a cylinder. A magnet is located in the electromagnetic alternating field in the cylinder. The magnet is displaceable back and forth in the electromagnetic alternating field and a piston located in the electromagnetic alternating field in the cylinder is drivingly connected to the magnet. The present invention further includes a buffer volume and a module casing which encloses the cylinder and the buffer volume. The cylinder is mounted in the module casing so that the cylinder can oscillate in the module casing. The module casing includes an inlet passage for media to be compressed with the cylinder including an inlet opening lying opposite the inlet passage without making contact therewith. A passage to the buffer volume is formed between the inlet opening and the inlet passage. At least one sound restrictor element is located in the buffer volume passage, and includes a plurality of interleaved, generally cylindrical walls, with a first set of walls attached to the module casing and a second set of walls attached to the cylinder.

Independent Claim 21 is similar to Claim 11, but recites the present invention is somewhat greater detail.

As discussed during the interview, Hur '523 does not disclose a linear compressor with a sound restrictor element as described by the present Claims 11 and 21. Further, Terauchi '660 fails to cure the deficiencies in the teachings of Hur '523.

For these and other reasons, Hur '523 does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 11. Therefore, Claim 11 is allowable. Claims 14-16 and 19-20 depend from Claim 11 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, Hur '523 and Terauchi '660, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claims 11 and 21. Therefore, Claims 11 and 21 are allowable. Claims 13-16 and 19-20 depend from Claim 11, while Claims 22 and 24-25 depend from Claim 21 and all such dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 11-25 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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